

Advanced Legal Research & Writing Law 530.001 – Summer 2023

COURSE INFORMATION

Course dates: Wednesday, May 10, 2023 through Wednesday, July 19, 2023

Time: 1:30pm – 5pm

Location: Room 208 (Law Library) - **No Food Allowed. Beverages in spill-proof containers okay**

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

George Tsiakos

Head, Law Library

tsiakos@allard.ubc.ca

Office Hours: TBA

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Advanced Legal Research will provide students with the ability to locate and update relevant case law, legislation, and commentaries on specific legal topics. The course will provide students with confidence as they undertake research for course work or begin their articles, because they will have gained a substantial, usable set of research skills. The focus will be on developing practical research skills. Training will be provided on researching the law in British Columbia and Canada. The course will also touch on foreign jurisdictions such as the UK, and the United States.

Students will have an opportunity to synthesize information gained through legal research into written documents commonly used in legal practice, and particularly during articles. The emphasis will be on drafting legal memos and opinion letters. The overall learning experience will include reading assignments, demonstration videos, research exercises, and written assignments.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

By the end of this course, you will be able to:

- Develop a research strategy for any legal issue, regardless of jurisdiction;
- Demonstrate effective use of primary and secondary legal resources;
- Research federal and BC legislation;
- Research federal and provincial case law;
- Demonstrate problem solving skills; and
- Demonstrate written communication skills.

COURSE STRUCTURE

A blended learning approach will be used which will include both in-person and online learning experiences. In-person classes will be held at Allard Hall in Room 208 (located in the Law Library) and we will be using a “flipped classroom” approach. This means that the majority of the lecture content will be pushed online and assigned as homework. This may involve watching a video or reading commentary on a specific topic before coming to class. This approach will allow us to devote more class time to assimilating your knowledge of the topic at hand through problem-solving and discussions. These classes will be interactive and experiential; therefore, it is highly recommended that you bring a laptop or a tablet to each class. Classes will proceed on the assumption that you have already completed the assigned homework. Canvas is the main online instructional platform that will be used to facilitate your interaction with the course. You can access Canvas using your CWL credentials at canvas.ubc.ca.

REQUIRED MATERIALS

Required:

- All required readings and activities will be accessible via Canvas.

Optional:

- *Canadian Guide to Uniform Legal Citation* [McGill Guide], 9th, 8th, or 7th edition.
- Margaret E McCallum, Deborah A Schmedermann & Christina L Kunz, *Synthesis: Legal Reading, Reasoning and Writing in Canada*, 4th ed (Toronto: LexisNexis, 2017). Two print copies available for 2hr loan in the Law Library Reference Room (Level 2 at KE265 M33 2017)

PASSWORDS

In the first week, students should ensure that they have active passwords for Lexis+ Canada and Westlaw Edge Canada. These passwords must be readily available for each class. If you do not already have these passwords, please email Elim Wong at: elim.wong@ubc.ca.

EVALUATION & GRADING

The final grade for the course will be expressed as a percentage and will conform to the Allard School of Law grading rules. Students will be evaluated on their individual performance. All law students are subject to the University's rules on Academic Misconduct – review the regulation at:

<https://www.calendar.ubc.ca/vancouver/index.cfm?tree=3,286,0,0#:~:text=All%20UBC%20students%20are%20expected,may%20result%20in%20disciplinary%20action>.

- **Research Assignments** – 100%
Students are required to complete two (2) written assignments. Students must work individually on these assignments and meet assignment deadlines. In addition to content, students will be assessed on their research, analysis, legal citation, and quality of their written work.
- **Assignment 1** will be graded on a Pass/Fail basis where the passing threshold is 65%. Regardless of the passing threshold, only a Pass or Fail grade will be assigned (i.e. no % grade). If a student fails the assignment, **2% will be deducted from their final mark in the course**.
- **Assignment 2** – 100% of total mark (subject to Assignment 1)

Assignment	Date Distributed	Date Due
Assignment 1	June 21, 2023	June 28, 2023
Assignment 2	July 12, 2023	July 26, 2023

WEEKLY PARTICIPATION

Students must attend all scheduled classes and complete all class activities. Students are expected to come prepared to each class and arrive on time. Pre-class preparations will include reading assigned content, watching videos, and other activities. Students may use laptops and mobile devices for note-taking, accessing course material, and completing exercises and not for other purposes.

UNIVERSITY POLICIES

UBC provides resources to support student learning and to maintain healthy lifestyles but recognizes that sometimes crises arise. There are campus resources to access including those for survivors of sexual violence. UBC values respect for the person and ideas of all members of the academic community. Harassment and discrimination are not tolerated nor is suppression of academic freedom. UBC provides appropriate accommodation for students with disabilities and for religious observances. UBC values academic honesty and students are expected to acknowledge the ideas generated by others and to uphold the highest academic standards in all of their actions. Details of the policies and how to access support are available on the UBC [Senate website](#).

Advanced Legal Research Law 530.001 - Weekly Outline

Class 1 – May 10

- Introduction & Review of Syllabus
- Secondary Sources - Books
- Boolean Searching

Class 2 – May 17

- Secondary Sources – Legal Encyclopedias & Periodicals
- Research Memo – Facts

Class 3 – May 24

- BC Legislation
- Research Memo – Issues & Brief Answers

Class 4 – May 31

- Federal Legislation
- Research Memo – Discussion & Analysis

Class 5 – June 7

- Interpreting Legislation
- Judicial Consideration of Legislation
- Research Memo – Discussion & Analysis

Class 6 – June 14

- Canadian Judicial System
- Case Law – Digest Services
- Research Memo – Writing Style

Class 7 – June 21

- Canadian Case Law – Full-Text Searching
- Noting-Up Cases
- Problem Solving



Assignment 1 – Distributed June 21



Class 8 – June 28

- Point-in-Time Legislative Research



Assignment 1 – Due June 28

Class 9 – July 5

- Researching Foreign Law
- Researching English Law

Class 10 – July 12

- Opinion Letters
- Researching US Law
- Researching International Law



Assignment 2 – Distributed July 12

Class 11 – July 19

- Researching EU Law
- Course Review & Term Wrap-Up



Assignment 2 – Due July 26